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**Maritime health e-learning postgraduate medical education Courses: An interuniversity collaboration to train health professionals around the world. Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) 5-9 September 2015, Glasgow, UK**  
**<http://amee.org/conferences/amee-2015>**

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*Publication date:*  
2015

*Document license*  
Unspecified

*Citation for pulished version (APA):*

Fenoll-Brunet, M. R., Canals, M. L., Jensen, O. C., Jégaden, D., Nogueroles, J. P., & Hegador, J. (2015). Maritime health e-learning postgraduate medical education Courses: An interuniversity collaboration to train health professionals around the world. Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) 5-9 September 2015, Glasgow, UK <http://amee.org/conferences/amee-2015>. Poster session presented at AMEE 2015: 5-9 September 2015, Glasgow, UK <http://amee.org/conferences/amee-2015>, Glassgow, United Kingdom.

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# MARITIME HEALTH INTERNATIONAL e-LEARNING POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION COURSES:

An interuniversity collaboration to train health professionals around the world.



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## Background

Medical education competences are fundamentally oriented to solve health issues of inhabitants that live, work and get sick on the planet's surface. However, the acquisition of competences addressing healthcare needs at distance for sea workers embarked during long periods while navigating around the world with limited access to ground healthcare services are not taken into account (1). This gap requires appropriate medical training on Maritime health competences, including e-Health and ICT management skills (2).

## Summary of work

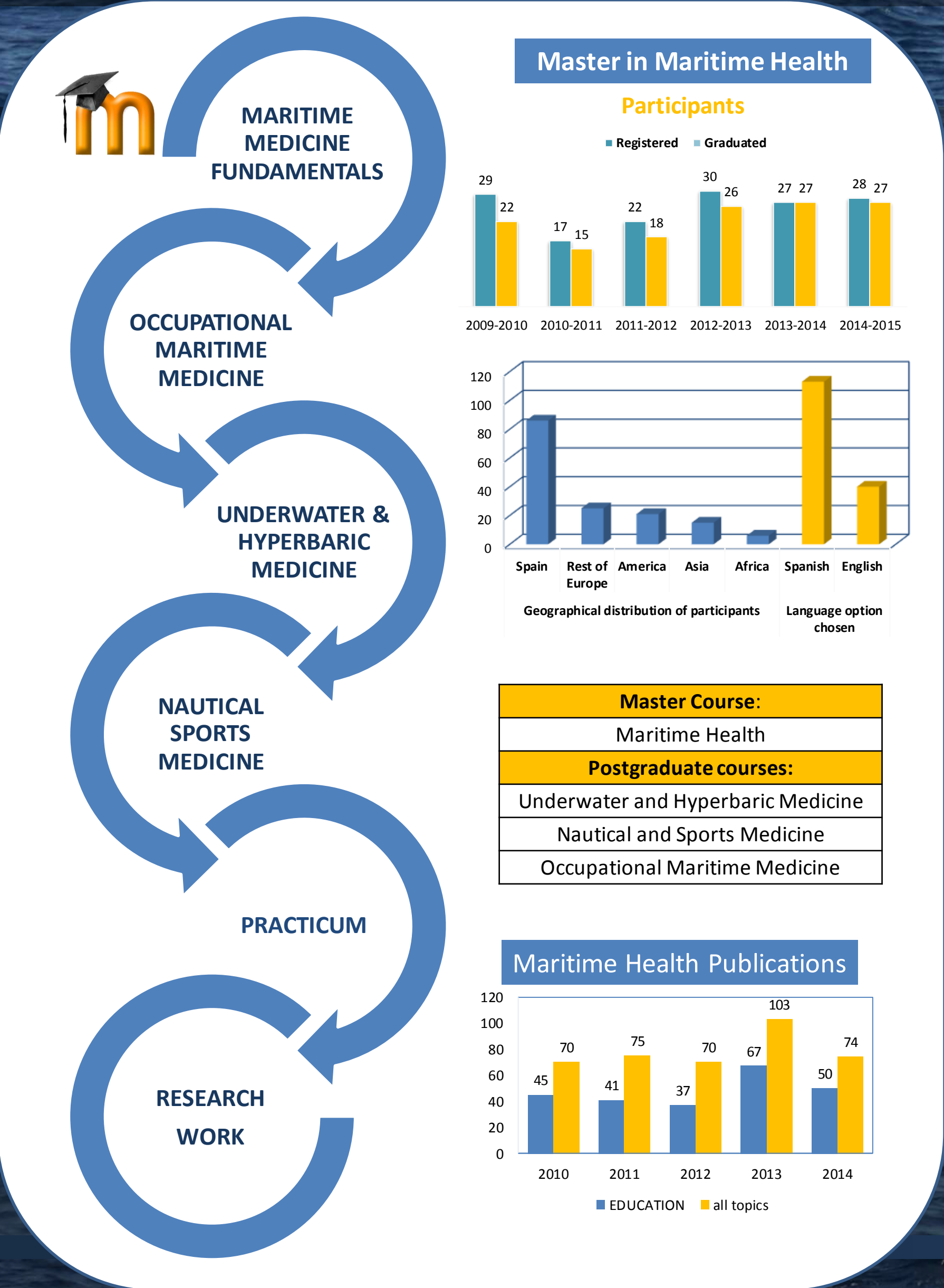
Courses have been designed to train health professionals to be able to perform medical examinations of sea workers, seafarers and divers, to manage a medical care centre, a ship hospital or a radio medical telemedicine consultation, to train seafarers, or to manage risk prevention activities on board (3,4). E-learning resources are provided in both, English and Spanish. A panel of 60 professors from 13 Universities in Europe, Asia and America are participating in online training with asynchrony collaborative teamwork. Over 12 hospitals and nautical institutions are involved too in developing practical workshops in coordination with National Maritime Health Centres worldwide.



Esperanza del Mar ship Hospital  
(Spanish National Health Service)

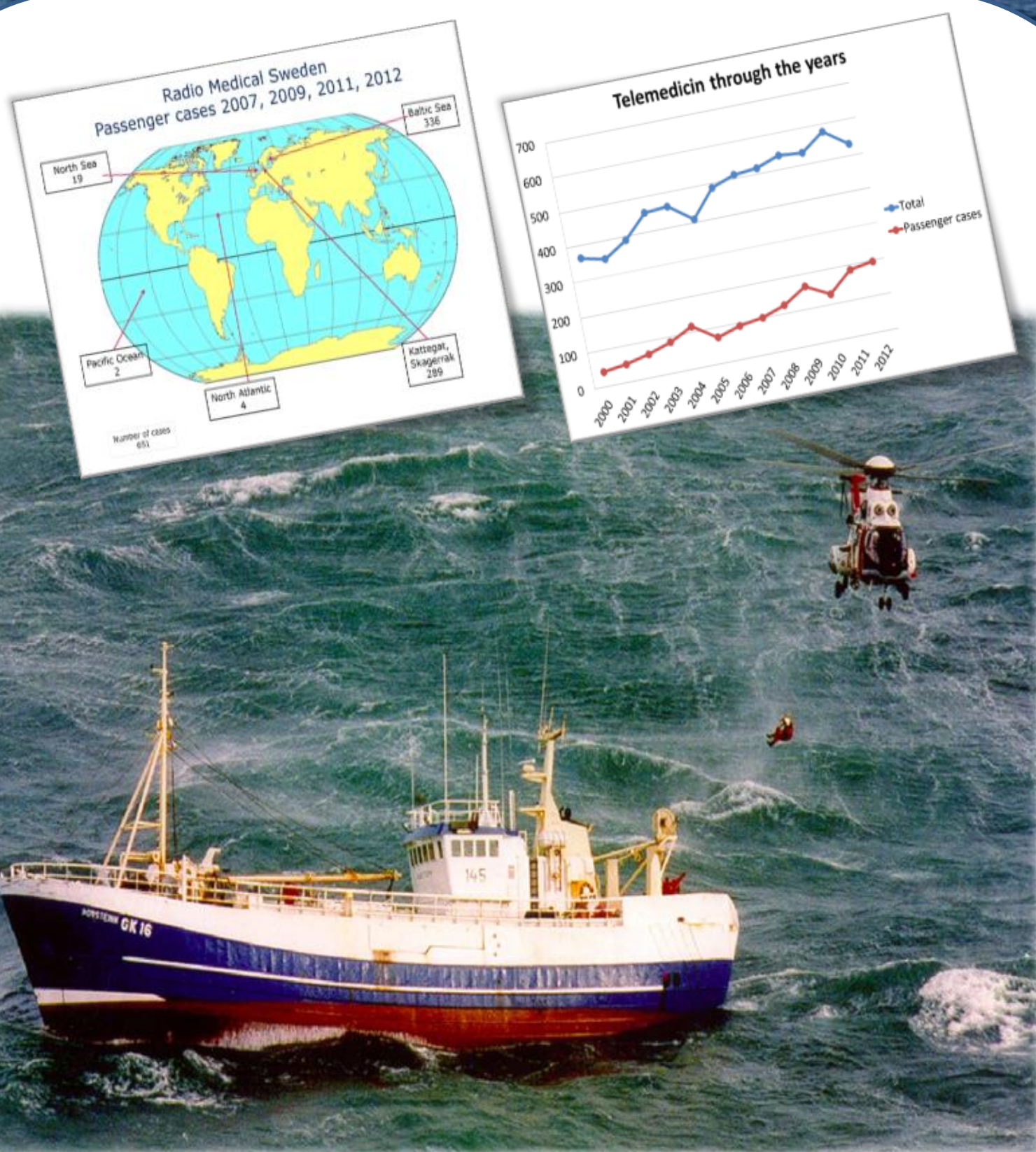
## Summary of results

Since 2003 we are delivering Postgraduate Medical Education (PME) courses on Maritime Medicine. Doctors follow online learning modules by using Moodle as ICT platform and participate in practicum activities that are offered periodically worldwide to train rescue simulations and other protocols in maritime medicine including underwater and nautical sports accident aspects. There is a competence assessment programme ensuring that trainees achieve key competences for practising worldwide. Furthermore, a range of face-to-face workshops, rescue training events and symposia are regionally offered in close collaboration with Maritime Health Associations worldwide (5).



## Conclusions

Maritime health professionals has been pioneers implementing e-Health, developing telemedicine services assisting seafarers and embarked workers, providing medical assistance and counselling to underwater diving professionals. They were also the first to share electronic patient medical records among maritime health professionals at harbours. This collaboration in the maritime medicine field can be considered a successful global partnership for education, research, and service.



Radio-medical consultation centres:  
Telemedical advice and evacuations of  
seafarers and passengers

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## TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

The hazardous occupation of seafaring brings many unique medical challenges. **Patients at sea do exist!** Maritime Medicine professionals look after their health. However, this field it's not recognized as a medical specialty in most countries. There is a need to fulfil this gap!



IMHA International Maritime Health Association